

# FERNS AND HORSETAILS

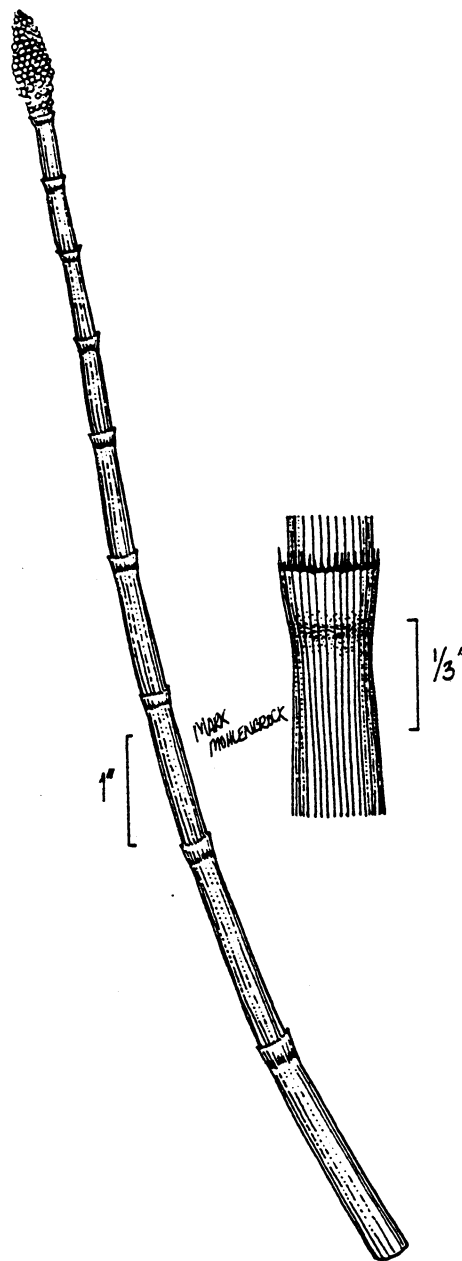
# Scouringrush Horsetail

*Equisetum hyemale* L.

**Family:** Horsetail (Equisetaceae)

**"Cones" in May-September**

**Field Marks:** This *Equisetum* lacks lateral branches, sheds its tiny scale-like teeth on the sheaths during the growing season, and has a "cone" usually at least 1/2 inch long.



**Habitat:** Along streams, roadsides and railroads, alluvial soil.

**Habit:** Perennial with black rhizomes.

**Stems:** Erect, usually unbranched, jointed, green, grooved, slightly rough to the touch, up to 4 feet tall, evergreen.

**Leaves:** Reduced to a ring of teeth at each joint on the stem, the teeth black and falling away during the growing season.

**Fruits:** Spores borne in terminal "cones" 1/2-1 inch long, pointed at the tip.

**Notes:** This species was used by the early settlers to scour and clean pots and pans.

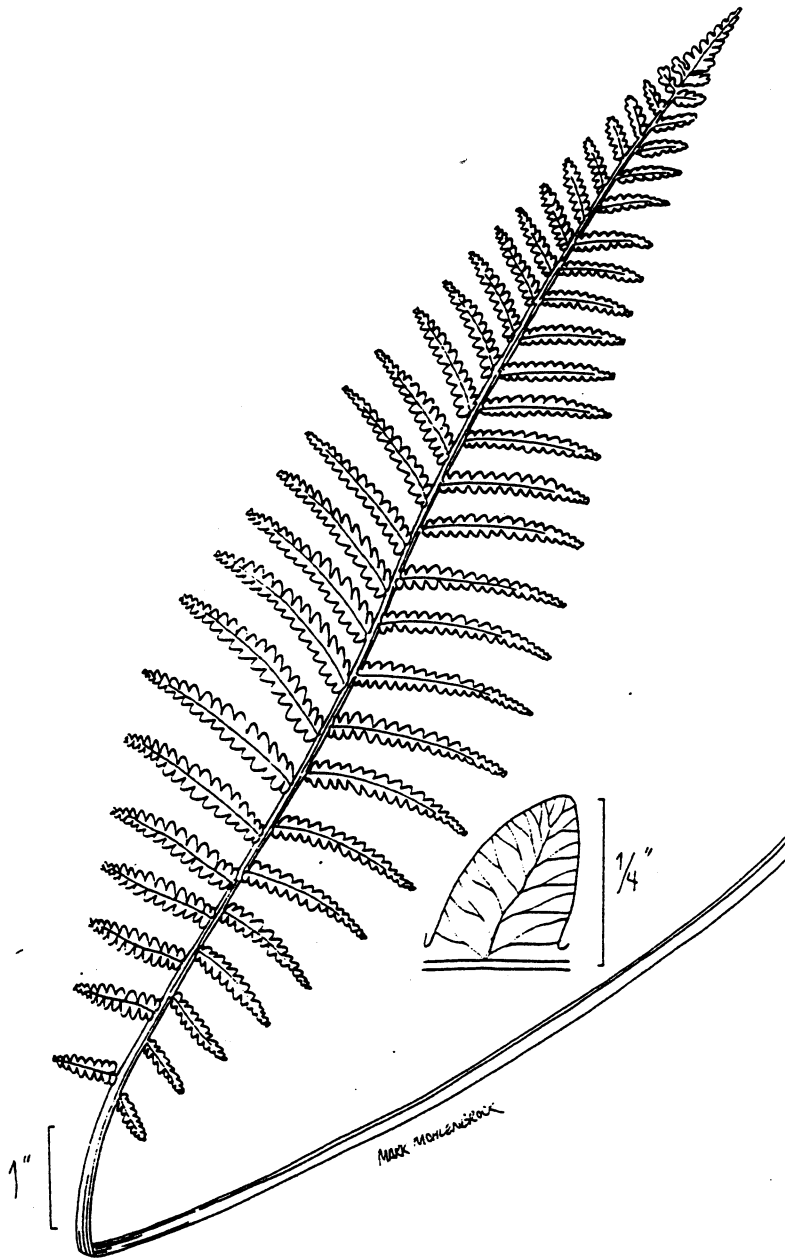
## Marsh Fern

*Thelypteris thelypteroides* (Michx.) J. Holub

**Family:** Fern (Polypodiaceae)

**Fruiting:** June-October

**Field Marks:** This is a deciduous fern that grows in marshy soils. The leaves are divided 1 1/2 times.



**Habitat:** Marshes, wet woods.

**Habit:** Perennial herb with slender, creeping, black rhizomes.

**Stems:** No aerial stems present.

**Leaves:** Deciduous, lanceolate, covered with short hairs, at least when young, divided 1 1/2 times into tiny, more or less toothless segments with forking veins.

**Reproductive Bodies:** Circular, along the edges of the leaf segments.

**Notes:** Marsh fern is usually known as *Thelypteris palustris*.